

## House Resolution No. 27

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those high school athletic programs which admirably demonstrate the positive virtues of sportsmanship, teamwork, determination, and drive; and

**Whereas**, fifty years ago the 1953-1954 Alton High School basketball players became the first-ever Comet team to reach the state basketball tournament Final Four; and

**Whereas**, that stellar achievement will once again be celebrated on Friday, January 9, 2004, when coaches, players, managers, and cheerleaders from the 1953-1954 Comet basketball team will be the special guests of the Comet Booster Club and longtime fans at Alton High School; and

**Whereas**, on its way to the 1954 Final Four, the Comet basketball team garnered a 40-8 win-loss record and captured First Place at sub-regionals, Second in regionals, and victories against Horace Mann and Lewistown in the initial rounds of the state tournament; and

**Whereas**, after a loss to Sparta in the semifinals, the Alton Comets led Troy by 25-10 at the half before foul troubles dashed their hopes for a third place finish that year; and

**Whereas**, the 1953-1954 Comet basketball team was coached by Carl Mac Johnson with the assistance of team managers Larry Simmons and Harriell Booker and composed of players Hal Johnson, Boyd Hickinbotham, Don Shehorn, Joe Rushing, Bill Combs, Dale Johnson, Leroy Crews, Carl Barton, Earl Barton, Tommy Holman (now deceased), and Irvin Farless (deceased); and

**Whereas**, in addition to their parents, teachers, administrators, and community supporters, the 1953-1954 Alton High School basketball players were encouraged in their season-long endeavors by a cheerleading crew made up of Betty (Ross) Reynolds, Fern (Williams) Johnson, June (Pingree) Orr, Joyce (Orr) Risner, Annabelle (Dorris) Owens, and Ginger Gullic (deceased):

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the stellar, groundbreaking legacy garnered by the 1953-1954 Alton basketball team and to convey to all of those involved, including coaches, players, managers, and cheerleaders, this legislative body's heartiest congratulations for the special recognition they will receive on Friday, January 9, 2004, from the Comet Booster Club and others in attendance; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the 1953-1954 Alton High School Comet basketball team.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
Representative Mike Dethrow  
District No. 153

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 27, adopted January 8, 2004.

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Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker